

March 12, 2012

Dear honorable members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of my constituents, I would like to express my strong support for red light safety cameras and urge you to support passage of the legislation.

One of the most frequent complaints I hear from my constituents in the East Rock neighborhood of New Haven is that our streets are not safe because of dangerous driving and red light running. My neighborhood consists of a high percentage of newborns, young children, and seniors. A vast majority of them walk to work, to the store, to the park. The residents I represent should have an expectation that they can cross the street without fearing being run down by a car running a red light. More importantly, they should feel comfortable that their children, their elderly parent or their spouse toting an infant in a stroller can walk about the neighborhood without being hit by a car. Speak with nearly every one of my constituents and they will tell you they do not feel safe.

There have been many concerns raised by lobbyists from the ACLU about privacy. I strongly agree that we should have certain expectations of privacy. But we are also willing to be practical when it serves the best interests of our community. We support cameras in public places to ensure security, we support cameras on school bus stop sign arms to increase the safety of our children, and I suspect all of you have an Easy Pass in your car or GPS on your phone where your activities can be and are monitored. We believe in the expectation of privacy, but have shown through our actions that we will be practical when we work to solve the challenges that face our society.

Red light safety cameras are a practical way for us to address the dangerous driving that negatively impacts our communities. Help us make our neighborhoods safer, allow our cities to choose whether the technology is right for us, and pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Justin Elicker

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